

5-2-2011

Current, May 02, 2011

University of Missouri-St. Louis

Follow this and additional works at: <http://irl.umsel.edu/current2010s>

Recommended Citation

University of Missouri-St. Louis, "Current, May 02, 2011" (2011). *Current (2010s)*. 81.
<http://irl.umsel.edu/current2010s/81>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Student Newspapers at IRL @ UMSL. It has been accepted for inclusion in Current (2010s) by an authorized administrator of IRL @ UMSL. For more information, please contact marvinh@umsel.edu.

The Current

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

MAY 2, 2011

VOL. 44;

ISSUE 1346



**WE ARE THE
CHAMPIONS:
TRITON SOFTBALL
WINS GREAT LAKES
VALLEY CONFERENCE
REGULAR SEASON**

BY CEDRIC WILLIAMS, PAGE 10

ALSO INSIDE

3 Smells like SGA election
Freshly voted-in members talk UMSL politics

8 Jeans for change
Raising awareness about sexual assault

13 Editor's goodbye
Outgoing Editor-in-Chief's farewell

The Current

VOL. 44, ISSUE 1346

WWW.THECURRENT-ONLINE.COM

EDITORIAL

Editor-in-Chief.....Andrew W. Seal
News Editor.....Ryan Krull
Features Editor.....Jen O'Hara
Assoc. Features Editor.....Ashley Atkins
Sports Editor.....Cedric Williams
A&E Editor.....William Kyle
Assoc. A&E Editor.....Cate Marquis
Opinions Editor.....Matthew B. Poposky
Copy Editors..... Lauren Wilding, Johanna Hoffarth
Proofreaders.....Sara Novak
Staff Writers.....Minho Jung, David Von Nordheim, Mary Grace Buckley
Janaca Scherer, Sharon Pruitt, Heather Welborn,
Jeremy Zschau, Kristen Ross

DESIGN

Design Editors.....Andrew W. Seal and Matthew B. Poposky
Photo Editor.....Jennifer Meahan
Web Editor.....Louie Liu
Staff Photographers.....Yumeto Yamazaki,
Samuel J. Surgener, Nikki Vahle, Zhang Zheng, Chenhao Li
Illustrators.....Karlee Sellars

BUSINESS

Ad Director.....Zachary Schwartz
Distribution Manager.....Ryan Krull
Business Manager.....John Wallace
Advisor.....Charlotte Petty

CONTACT US

Address 388 MSC, 1 University Blvd
Saint Louis, MO 63121-4400
Newsroom 314-516-5174
Business/Advertising 314-516-5316
Fax 314-516-6811
E-mail (General) thecurrent@umsl.edu
E-mail (Advertising) thecurrentads@umsl.edu
E-mail (Employment Inquiries) thecurrentjobs@umsl.edu
E-mail (Tips) thecurrenttips@umsl.edu
Twitter umslcurrent
Facebook The Current

ABOUT The Current

The Current is the student newspaper at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, printing weekly through the fall and spring semesters on Mondays. Advertising rates are available upon request; terms, conditions and restrictions apply. The Current, financed in part by student activities fees, is not an official publication of UM-St. Louis.

The University is not responsible for the content of The Current and/or its policies. All materials contained in each printed and online issue are property of The Current and may not be reprinted, reused, or reproduced without the prior, expressed and written consent of The Current.

The Current accepts letters to the editor. All letters should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. The Current edits letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number and, where applicable, student number. The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to and to deny any letters.

AFFILIATIONS



News

Cross-campus Labor Studies class comes under fire online

Combined UMSL, UMKC course raises ire of right-wing blogosphere; illicit video of class posted on web

RYAN KRULL
News Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis as well as the University of Missouri-Kansas City have recently become involved in a minor controversy surrounding a Labor, Politics and Society course offered by both universities.

Last week, some footage of a class in session was posted on the Andrew Brietbart operated blog Big Government in which the editorial staff of Big Government claimed that the instruc-

down from hours and hours of original video.

In an official statement, UMSL responded, in part, with the following: "From the review completed to date, it is clear that edited videos posted on the Internet depict statements from the instructors in an inaccurate and distorted manner by taking their statements out of context and reordering the sequence in which those statements were actually made so as to change their meaning. Such selective editing is disturbing and the release of students' images without their permission is a violation of their privacy rights."

“Such selective editing, is disturbing and the release of students’ images without their permission is a violation of their privacy rights.”

-UMSL Statement

tors were advocating violence and industrial sabotage as a part of union/management negotiations.

The course’s two instructors are Don Giljum, formerly a business manager for the International Union of Operating Engineers at Ameren UE as well as an UMSL adjunct professor, and Judy Ancel, Director of Labor Studies at UMKC. In the videos, both of which run about seven minutes long, Ancel does say, “violence is a tactic and it’s to be used when it’s the appropriate tactic.”

Giljum said something similar: “I can’t really honestly say that I’ve never wished...real harm on somebody or inflicted any pain and suffering on some people that, you know, didn’t ask for it. It certainly has its place.”

However, it is impossible to know the context in which Ancel and Giljum were speaking because the roughly 15 minutes of footage posted on Big Government has been heavily edited

Later on in the school’s statement, it is made clear that Giljum has resigned.

Video of the course was readily available because it was an interactive video (ITV) course. ITV courses are similar to online courses, though they predate their online counterparts by several years.

“In essence, we have rooms on this campus in Rolla and in Kansas City for these so-called joint programs, students can enroll in those...and the faculty member may actually physically be at a different campus and when you (the student) speak, camera comes to you and you’re seen on camera at the various locations,” Associate Vice Chancellor for Advancement Bob Samples said, explaining what an ITV course is.

Various sources have stated that it is probable that the video was put online or given to a third party to be posted online by a student enrolled in the class.

WEATHER

MON.	62	TUES.	64	WED.	70	THURS.	72	FRI.	73	SAT.	75	SUN.	78
	46		43		51		52		53		58		62

Newly-elected SGA members talk UMSL goals, agendas and future

JANACA SCHERER

Staff Writer

As most students prepare for the end of the school year, students in the Student Government Association are just gearing up. Recently elected to the SGA, these students will be spending not only their summer, but also the upcoming school year assisting students and organizations.

While higher positions will be voted on in a few weeks, the current senators have plenty of ideas to make University of Missouri- St. Louis an even more appealing place to further one's education. Each senator brings something different with them to the table.

Budget costs have always been in the forefront when it comes to student organizations. "My overall goal while in SGA [is] to try to keep the budget under control. ... Right now I think there are a lot of problems that could be reduced if worked on the right way," Senator Steven Kraml, junior, business administration, said. Current budget issues have left several organizations thousands of dollars under the budgets that they hoped to receive.

But many issues stand in the way of winning what could be SGA's largest battles. "It would be fun to simply say, 'I have a goal to fix all the budget problems at UMSL,' but without understand[ing] how things really get done, it will be impossible to do," Kraml said.

Others look forward to improving campus organization relationships. "I want to work with both the Greek organizations and Office of Student Life to better inter-Greek relations and

develop some multi-Greek organization charity fundraisers," Senator A. J. Roth, junior, said. By further connecting with the Greek-life presence on campus, Roth believes they will be able to accomplish more.

"I think our biggest goal to overcome in the upcoming months is to really make SGA more transparent to the UMSL students," Vice President Aleshia Patterson, junior, communications, said.

Many students do not recognize, or even realize, the presence of SGA on campus. "We are the voice for them. They should feel comfort in knowing that if they have a grievance with something that is happening on campus, they can come to us and we will work together to create a solution," Patterson said.

But the senators strongly urge all of UMSL's students to participate in the SGA experience as well. "Your money is being spent here too. That means your input is also needed. Just because you only commute to UMSL doesn't mean that your input on how we handle the Millennium Center or the different events we host is unimportant," Kraml said.

"All the students should stay informed about what SGA is doing as well as voice their opinion if they have a concern. We will be making decisions that affect most if not all of the students," Roth said. SGA members want to be the voice of UMSL students, but they need student involvement and feedback to do that. The Inauguration for the new SGA members will be on Tuesday, May 3 at 5:30 p.m. in the MSC Century Rooms. Students are welcome to attend and meet the new SGA Executive Board and senators.

The UNDERCURRENT

by Zheng Zhang

"How have the recent severe storms and tornado in St. Louis impacted you?"



"I live on campus and the power was out all night and morning... I hope everything can be repaired!"

Shela Newburn
Psychology
Junior



"Power outages for one day. No damages."

Yasser Almukhtar
Management accounting
Senior



"I was not personally affected...I drove through parts of town and saw the damage. I feel bad for those effected."

Tim Gravin
English
Junior

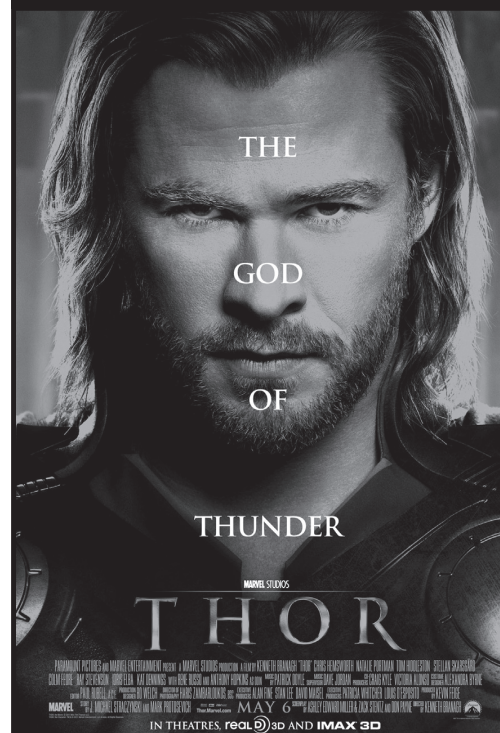
QUALITY, AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR WOMEN, MEN AND TEENS

- STD testing & treatment
- birth control services
- emergency contraception
- pregnancy testing
- GYN exams
- HPV vaccine
- females & males ages 9 - 26
- options education & information
- abortion services
- abortion pill (4 - 9 weeks)
- surgical abortion (4 - 22 weeks)

Same day and next day appointments available, including evening and Saturday hours

 **Planned Parenthood**
800.230.7526 | www.plannedparenthood.org/stlouis

HAMMER THROUGH YOUR FINALS!



The Current

**WANTS TO HELP YOU
HAMMER THROUGH
YOUR FINALS WITH**

THOR

For your chance to win a
THOR Finals Survival kit,
send an email to
ContestStLouis@alliedim.com
telling us how you plan to
make it through finals week!

WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED OR RESTRICTED BY LAW. Employees of participating sponsors are ineligible. Winner will be chosen and notified on Friday, May 6th. This film has been rated PG-13.

Thor.Marvel.com
IN THEATERS FRIDAY, MAY 6TH

A&E



For 'Customized Vistas,' screen prints by Joseph D'Uva are displayed on Gallery Visio from April 28 to May 16.

YUMETO YAMAZAKI / THE CURRENT

Visio's "Customized Vistas" mixes suburbs, country in pastel

ART

Rural country life and suburbia often are in close physical proximity but are culturally worlds apart. The current Gallery Visio exhibit "Customized Vistas" brings together the suburban and country childhoods of husband and wife artists Joseph D'Uva and Summer Zickefoose in a pastel, pleasant collection of art works.

D'Uva grew up in suburban coastal Florida while Zickefoose grew up in rural northern Iowa. What these two diverse backgrounds seem to share is a taste for the pretty and pastel.

Pink, pale green and sky blue are recurrent colors in this exhibit, which features eight works by D'Uva and three multi-part ones by Zickefoose. D-Uva's works are playful pop-culture prints while Zickefoose's mixed-media works are more sculptural with a found-object and folk-art aspect.

Zickefoose's "The Scenery Series" is a collection of old hand saws whose blades are covered in country -print fabric and tied to the handle like an old-fashioned kitchen apron. The contrasting-print ties are often trimmed in lace, adding to the apron-like effect. The fussy floral prints and feminine touches creates an ironic

contrast with the rough-hewn saw handles, some of which are so weathered as to be half-missing. The decorated saws are displayed in an orderly row, attached to the gallery wall.

With "Saw Tooth Doilies" the artist continues her feminine transformation of the practical implements with a series of laser-cut circular saw blades. The cut-out blades are displayed on posts that hold them out from the wall, casting pleasing shadow patterns.

"Cockleburrs and Pleasantries" extends Zickefoose's theme of country found-object reinterpreted. A series of white teacups, perched on pink painted wooden brackets, decorated with brown writing and filled with natural materials like cockleburrs and seeds. The writings are taken from women's farm journals and diaries, but all not all pleasantries, including excerpts about vaccinating pigs.

D'Uva includes pigs in his works too. "An Essential Feeder," a screen print with flocking, uses tone-on-tone pink images of pig graphical shapes and a line drawing of a feeder, which looks like it may have come from a catalog of farm goods. Pastel colors and simplified graphical images that combine pop-culture cartoons and advertisements dominate all the D'Uva pieces on display.

Numbers often appear in D'Uva's pieces as well, as well as super-imposed images, as is the case for the flower planter on green image, "Shamrock Heights," which appears on the exhibit's promotional postcard. The title may be a reference to a subdivision name, as it is displayed next to the pale blue "Suburban Migration" featuring a white picket fence graphic. Most of D'Uva's pieces do not reference the country-suburban connection as obviously. "Duck Worthy Alignment" uses the lined paper children use to learn to print their letters but decorates it with a teal-blue line of graphical duckies. "Mouseketeer" is a black and dark gray print of Mickey Mouse caps. "A Friendly Lure" has a green field printed with mousetraps, like wall paper, on which a pair of wind-up mouse graphics have been printed.

"Tampa Bay Downs Bound" more directly references D'Uva's Florida childhood. It is a brightly pastel map of the state's west coast and the Gulf of Mexico over which are printed Greyhound Bus logo dogs chasing a graphical white rabbit.

Gallery Visio "Customized Vistas" is a soothingly pastel, pastoral suburban experience on display through May 16.

- Cate Marquis

'Water for Elephants' is respectful if tame adaptation

MOVIES

Movie adaptations of bestselling novels are always problematic. The film has to be faithful enough to the book to satisfy fans yet also create a fulfilling film experience that works for those who have not read it.

"Water for Elephants" succeeds in the first half of that challenge but less so in the second. This Hollywood adaption of the bestseller is faithful enough to the novel to please fans. It has vibrant visuals, color-drenched scenery and an attractive cast. But director Francis Lawrence and screenwriter Richard LaGravenese may have polished off too many of the novel's rough edges and drained it of some of its passion.

To be clear, this is a review of the film, not the beloved book. The book's fans will be able to draw on its splendid prose and sense of time and place to subconsciously fill in details of characters and storyline missing in the pared-down script. Those who have not read the book simply lack that advantage. The movie "Water for Elephants" is entertaining, but it lacks the emotional fire or gritty Depression-era realism that could have made it a more compelling drama.

The story unfolds in flashback as an older man (Hal Holbrook) tells a circus worker (Paul Schneider) the tale of a 1930s circus and the legendary disaster that brought it down. The flashback begins with a college student, Jacob (Robert Pattinson), studying at Cornell to become a veterinarian. As he is on the verge of graduation, the sudden deaths of his parents reveal a secret, that they had mortgaged everything to send him to college. Now bereaved, penniless and homeless, Jacob hops a train, which turns out to belong to a small circus.

Jacob's story takes place very specifically in 1931, when the Great Depression was well underway yet Prohibition still held sway. His skills find him work as the circus' veterinarian. The circus is run with an iron hand by its ringmaster August (Christoph Waltz). August is known for his cruelty, but his harsh methods have kept the circus alive in hard times. Jacob finds himself drawn to the show's star Marlena (Reese Witherspoon), a bareback rider who is also August's wife.

A love triangle set in a 1930s circus peopled with a colorful mix of characters and sprinkled with animals, including a beautiful elephant, sounds irresistible. The film gives a fleeting taste of life with a traveling circus, yet nearly everything in the film, including the romance, is a little too cleaned-up. No one

looks hungry or shabby in this Depression.

The book's fans know where all this is leading but, unfortunately, so does everyone else. The book's magic is in the way its words create the circus world, filled with complicated animals, people and relationships. The film rarely gets beyond the surface. The flaw is its pedestrian direction, an uninspired screen adaptation and a too plain presentation of the story. It transforms what is magically told in the novel into melodrama, a romance with an over-the-top villain.

Still, the cast is good overall with Waltz again chilling audiences as he did in "Inglourious Basterds." Witherspoon is a nice mix of delicate beauty and resignation to her fate, grateful to her husband who rescued her from small-town life, although she lacks a certain hardness. She generates most of the romantic chemistry with Pattinson, who is adequate, but hardly impressive.

Overall, the movie "Water for Elephants" is a mixed bag best enjoyed by those who read the magical novel, allowing their memories of the novel to fill in missing details.

B- - Cate Marquis



August (Christoph Waltz), Jacob (Robert Pattinson) and Marlena (Reese Witherspoon) in WATER FOR ELEPHANTS. Photo by David James. Courtesy and Copyright 2011 20th Century Fox & Regency Enterprises

Alison Krauss & Union Station return country and bluegrass to limelight with new release

MUSIC

Alison Krauss & Union Station have once again brought bluegrass music to the forefront with their release of "Paper Airplanes." Released on April 12, the album is Krauss' fourteenth release and her fourth album with Union Station (their first release was in 1989).

Peaking at number three on the U.S. Billboard 200 (and number one on the Billboard's Folk Albums, Top Bluegrass Albums, and Top Country Albums charts) Alison Krauss & Union Station have brought bluegrass into

the limelight multiple times.

Krauss' beautifully pure voice mixed with her musical abilities (fiddle and viola) combine to create a sound that no one could replicate. Crisp and clear, her voice simply must be heard in order to be fully appreciated.

Krauss' talents paired with the five talents that make up Union Station create the most modern-traditional bluegrass band around (as much of an oxymoron as that may sound).

Mixing modern sounds through vocals and lyrics and the traditional stylings of bluegrass music, AK&US

create something that is so uniquely modern, yet traditional, it is hard to place them in one category or the other.

Dan Tyminski's voice makes several appearances on the album as well. Tyminski is the lead vocalist and guitarist and mandolin player for Union Station.

Where Krauss' voice may be perfectly angelic, Tyminski's voice hints at a roughness and pain that is all too familiar to bluegrass with the perfect amount of twang.

The album itself is beautifully composed. The title track, "Paper Airplanes" is

by far the best on the entire album.

Singing of heartbreak, Krauss' voice rings clear. The cheeky lyrics just prove that no love is perfect ("every silver lining has its cloud" and "love conquers few").

After the first song on the album, listeners will definitely be back for multiple helpings.

The only down fall of the album is that most of the songs are on the slow side. Very few have the upbeat feeling that has come to be associated with AK&US.

However, the album, from front to back, is entirely beautiful and it is hard to find a song that does not deserve some sort of recognition.

"My Love Follows You Where You Go" is one of the few upbeat songs on the album. Though still about heartbreak (which could be considered Krauss' trademark), the song is slightly faster and, despite the topic, kind of cheerful. This song is traditionally bluegrass with backings by a banjo and a beautifully composed acoustic guitar solo towards the end.

For those who have always been interested in more acoustic or even bluegrass music, and never known where to start, Alison Krauss & Union Station will do wonders for you.

The pure voice of Krauss and the amazing musical talents of Union Station will leave all in awe.

It is honestly amazing that they have yet to be thrown further into the limelight with the pure talent that they have.

A+ - Janaca Scherer

LATEST + GREATEST

Movies Opening Friday, May 6

"Thor"

Director Kenneth Branagh turns his Shakespearean-honed skills towards action/fantasy in this 3D adaptation of Stan Lee's comic book inspired by Norse mythology.



"In a Better World"

The Oscar-winner for Best Foreign-Language Film 2011 is a Danish drama about a doctor, who commutes between his home in Denmark and his work in an African refugee camp. In Danish, Swedish and English, with English subtitles.



"Cave of Forgotten Dreams"

This documentary from legendary filmmaker Werner Herzog gives a 3D look at the beautifully preserved cave paintings inside the Chauvet Cave in southern France.



Great careers are closer than you think. In fact, they're right in Olathe!

As you prepare to graduate, now is a great time to join Farmers Insurance®! We're looking for talented, motivated college grads to join our claims team and provide customer support at our Claims Center in Olathe.

This is a great entry-level opportunity with lots of potential for growth. If you have your 4 year degree, good customer service skills and strong decision making skills, apply today!

We're hiring now!

Great training, structured career paths, competitive compensation and bonus potential —
you'll find it all at Farmers!



FARMERS®

www.farmers.com/careers

EOE

Tyler Perry presents Madea in yet another humdrum movie

"Madea's Big Happy Family" opened at a number two in the box-office over Easter weekend with a universal message about family.

While it had its comedic moments, along with eye candy in the likes of Shad "Bow Wow" Moss and Lauren London, that did not distract from the fact that it still felt like viewers were watching a play on film as oppose to a film about a play.

Eleven motion pictures into his career, Tyler Perry has not been a favorite among the critics. This confusion in cinematography may be one of the reasons why.

A film written and directed by Perry, "Madea's Big Happy Family" is about a mother of three (Loretta Devine) who decides to put a stop to her fight against cancer.

Each time she tries to confide in her grown children, but they allow their personal issues to intervene. With less than six weeks to live, she recruits the help of Madea (Tyler Perry) to get things rolling.

The best scenes in this film are the ones exposing the nuttiness of the great aunt known as Madea, a character that Perry has spent years developing, she is a scene stealer.

In fact, another reason why this movie fell short was most

likely because it was an excuse to use the character. More focus was put into what she would say than whether or not the movie was flowing properly.

As far as the rest of the cast, Loretta Devine was a great choice to once again play the strong mother figure. Her performance called for attention and was a shoe-in when it came to quality.

An actor that surprised audiences in performance was Moss with his portrayal as the teenage father, fresh out of jail. Beyond his Nickelodeon days, his character spends the majority of the film arguing with the two women in his life: the gold digger (London) and the attention craving baby's mama.

A member that did not make sense in the film was Cassi Davis, the weed-smoking best friend with the horrible wig.

Known for her role as squeaky clean Ella on the TBS sitcom "House of Payne," she most likely saw this role as a chance to try something different, but the reality of the situation is that Devine's character was too strong for Davis. Based on the storyline, it felt like it should have been the other way around. It shows that even when the cast as the humbling mother, Devine still outshines the rest.

The editing in this film had to be taken into account. The actors were filmed on various sets at different times of the day, so the cutting felt choppy.

Also, usually the transition between Madea and Joe during conversation is pretty good considering that Perry is playing both parts, but in this film, the transitions felt noticeable, like he indeed was talking to himself.

"Happy Family" is entertaining during its first viewing, but it is not something that you would easily gravitate back to.

What makes Tyler Perry plays and films attract so much attention is that whether the storyline works or not, the viewer knows that they are about to be entertained from that moment on.

Similar to Seth MacFarlane, creator of Family Guy, Perry receives most of his support from an already established fan base.

The same people who followed him as an early playwright are the same ones blowing up his box-office now. But, should the average bystander immediately head to their local theater to see the flick? No, wait for Netflix.

C - Ashley Atkins



Spring Sidewalk Sale
May 2-9
UMSL gear and gifts
30-50% off!

UMSL BOOKSTORE
1 University Blvd • (314) 516-5763
www.umsbookstore.com

Features



As people pass by the Denim Day booth on Thursday in the Millenium Student Center, students pass out fliers to prevent and raise awareness about sexual assault against women.
NIKKI VAHLE / THE CURRENT

ASHLEY ATKINS
Assistant Features Editor

Last Thursday in the Millennium Student Center at the University of Missouri- St. Louis, the Student Social Work Association partnered with the Bridgeway Sexual Assault Center and the Young Women’s Christian Association to bring the message of Denim Day to the university’s student body.

Through press-on tattoos, pins, pamphlets and decorated jeans made by survivors of sexual assault, the two groups worked together to raise awareness.

The groups hoped that by connecting with the student body in person to share the history and information of Denim Day, they would bring sensitivity to a taboo subject.

Although this is the first year that the Student Social Work Association is hosting the event, this day has had its own voice in the United States since 1999.

With its roots generated from Italy, Denim Day originally started in 1997 when women in the high court of legislature decided to wear jeans in order to protest to a judge’s decision to appeal the case of a male driving instructor who raped his eighteen year-old female student.

The judge believed that, because her jeans were so tight, the offender could not have removed them without her help. He labeled the sexual act as consensual. After a conviction in 1992, the offender’s case was over turned.

A tale of injustice, this case is not the only representation of sexual assault and abuse that exist in this world.

It is a never ending international problem as long as offenders and society continue to believe that it is acceptable.

Every two and a half minutes, someone in America is sexually assaulted. One in six American women and one in thirty-three men are victims of sexual assault.

President of the Student Social Work Association, Jessica Boggs, junior, social work, said that it was through her volunteer work with YWCA that she has gained awareness of sexual assault.

“I am a volunteer with the YWCA regional sexual assault center,” Boggs, said. “We work with victims in the hospital when they go to report and then we also offer free counseling.”

Society has a tendency to separate from the issue, but people could be contributing to it on a daily basis and not realize it.

For example, the abuse of the term “rape” is the latest trend in adolescent society and goes against what Denim Day stands for.

It takes something as serious as sexual assault and turns it into a joke.

Boggs says education is a key. “The first thing you can do is be educated, learn the facts, and learn all the information that you can. I think that it is also important for men to realize that rape is not just an issue for women,” Boggs, said.

“It is also an issue for men and there are things that men can do to prevent rape.”

Others believe that men can actually be some of the best candidates for speaking out against sexual violence.

“We are really focused towards men because most of the time they are the abusers, but again, they can be our best advocates too,” Jennifer Martin, senior, criminal justice, Student Social Work Association member, said.

Bystander, Tara Smith, senior, criminal justice, hopes that the UMSL student body will not only realize that rape is a serious offense, but continue to take part in the cause next year.

“Honestly, I am glad that someone is recognizing the victim that was assaulted and as far as society, the word is getting out there and hopefully changes will become,” Smith, said.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2011 WHO’S WHO AT UMSL AWARD RECIPIENTS

Maureen Abong'o
Jino Abraham
Victoria Alewel
Erin Allan
Melissa Alper
Daniel Anthony
Lidia Aponte
Lawrence Appelbaum
Alana Arms
Isaac Arten
Jullia Auch
Janelle Bassett
Ashley Bollinger
Dannie Boyd
Brandon Brown
Andrew Burich
Jennifer Byington
Jessica Carson
Matthew Cashman
Kristy Cobillas
Giselle Coleman
Allison Cole-Wieland
Lisa Combs
Justin Courtney
Denise Crawford
Carlos Cuartas
Timothy Cummings
Nicole Daniels
Patricia Detwiler
Christine DiRie

Brad Dowling
Doris Dukes
Lisandro Fabellar
Ayumi Fairchild
Timothy Ferguson
Chana Florans
Brittany Flowers
Kevin Foster
Rao Fu
Stephanie Garrison
Joyce Gates
George Gerules
Talia Gholson
Jennifer Glassmeyer
Hadyn Goins
Altanzul Gombo
Anne Gonzalez
Kim Grega
ClayneHammon
Meghan Harper
Masashige Hayashi
Carina Heilich
Eri Higashi
Lindsay Huber
Jessica Huynh
Jahaun Ireland
Hiromi Kasuga
Kyle Kersting
Stephanie Korpall
Shabbar Kothari

Jordan Lai
Nathan Loveldi
Zhejie Ma
Lindsey Maggard
Joshua Mann
Sheila Mansfield
Brad Mantia
Gene Martino Jr
Keyah McCoy
Stephanie McDonald
Michael Miller
Matice Morris
Nikia Munson
Albert Nall Jr.
Nguyen Ngo
Caitlin Nowicki
Lawanda Nunley
Angela O'Dell
Angeline O'Neal
Kelsey Osborn
Amy Perry
Deaz Petty
Dunbar Philip
Debra Phillips
Diane Prost
Claire Regnier
John Remelius
Ronald Richardson, Jr.
Karena Rigby
Lauren Rodriguez

Daniel Rosner
Magdalena Schamber
Amanda Seib
Ryan Seman
Leonardo Severino
LaceyShanlenko
Patrick Slusser
Kanika Smith
Michael Smith
Tommy Starr
Kenson Tang
Stephanie Thompson
Daniel Trost
Melissa Turner
Rachel Turney
Sharde Waller
Kristen Weber
Savannah Webster
Mark Werges
Jacob Westhoff
Kristi White
Richard Williams
Marquetta Wilson
Sara Wodicker
Kyle Wogtech
JahannaWolf
Jennifer Woodford
Joanna Woolens
Jessica Young

*recipients were honored at the office of student life
student leadership awards banquet on april 25, 2011.*



Sophomore pitcher/designated hitter Leslie Davis at the plate in a match on Sunday.

CEDRIC WILLIAMS / THE CURRENT

Triton softball takes regular season championship after winning weekend

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

Coming into the 2011 season, the University of Missouri-St. Louis women's softball team was just hoping to be a competitive squad in the always tough Great Lakes Valley Conference with an outside chance of maybe making the playoffs. But somewhere along the way, those hopes morphed into an impossible dream of winning the conference championship, and possibly making it to the NCAA Tournament.

And thanks to a brilliant weekend of doubleheader sweeps against rivals Drury and Rockhurst, which included two miracle seventh-inning comebacks, the Tritons made part one of their dream season come true, as they won the GLVC regular season championship for the second time in the last three years. "We just continued to work hard," UMSL head softball coach, Brian Levine, said. "That's what I preach to them everyday. Just keep working hard, and good things will happen."

More like championships will happen. That's what the Tritons proved last weekend when they won all four games against Drury and Rockhurst and saw conference frontrunner Lewis stumble and fall into second place in the GLVC standings. The Tritons didn't necessarily need to win all four games to win the conference, but the newly-crowned 2011 league champions did need to win several of them.

It was clear though, UMSL did not want to take any chances or ask for any help from anybody else. The Tritons made sure to take care of their own business on their own field and got to celebrate winning a championship with their friends, families and fans. "This is really awesome," senior catcher/designated player JaCee Ellis said. "We knew we could do it from the beginning. We were up at six o'clock every morning all offseason. That hard work is just paying off for us, and you can really see it."

Ellis, a prime candidate for GLVC Player of the Year, wound up leading the league in home runs (11) and RBIs (44) and put the finishing touches on Saturday's champion-

ship-clinching win over Rockhurst, with two long home runs that helped UMSL build to a 10-3 win. The Tritons' all-time leading home run hitter also played a key role in the game one win, scoring what proved to be the game-winning run in an UMSL three-one victory. But heading into game two, Ellis was thinking more about the two strikeouts she had with runners on late in game one.

"The first game I didn't really do anything," Ellis said. "So for that second game, I was ready to hit. I actually told (teammate Leslie Davis) that I was due for home run, because every time I go into a slump, I hit one and get myself out of it."

Boy did she ever get out of it, launching a monster blast over the left-field fence in the first inning and a second shot that barely cleared the wall but counted nonetheless in the second inning. "Soon as I hit that first one, I heard her scream 'you called it!'" Ellis said.

See **SOFTBALL**, page 12

Tritons tennis teams bounced from playoffs

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

CINCINNATI, OHIO – Both the men's and women's University of Missouri-St. Louis tennis teams traveled to the "Queen City" for the first time ever last Friday to compete in the Great Lakes Valley Conference Championships.

The event was supposed to be held at Northern Kentucky University's Joyce Yeager Outdoor Tennis Complex in Highland Heights, Kentucky, but instead was moved to an indoor facilities in western Ohio because of severe weather and tornadoes that blew through that area over the weekend.

Unfortunately, the meteorological disaster was not the only thing that blew through the Tritons on Friday, as both the men's and women's UMSL teams were eliminated from their respective tournaments in the first round, suffering dual 5-0 losses.

The Triton women, the West Division's number three seed, took to the court first on Friday, at the Queen City Racquet and Fitness Club's indoor courts against East Division number two seed Lewis University, with the winner of that quarterfinal matchup advancing to the tournament semifinals.

And the Flyers took control almost immediately, winning all three doubles matches to take a three-zero match lead.

The singles competition did not go much better for UMSL, as Lewis number one singles players Zsafia Kranczicki defeated Triton number one Pujitha Bandi six-zero, six-zero, to make the match score four-zero.

At that point, UMSL needed to win all five of the remaining individual matches to somehow claim the team meet win.

But Lewis refused to let that happen, with Zsafia Lanstiaik defeating UMSL's Louisa Werner, six-one, six-one, at number two singles to clinch the match win.

Lewis eventually advanced all the way to the conference championship match against Drury University, but lost in that title match to the Panthers five-one.

The UMSL men were also the number three seed from the

the six singles matches to stay alive.

USI's Joseph Boesing made that hole even deeper when he defeated UMSL's Tim Bryant six-one, six-one, at number three singles. And minutes later, the season was over when USI's Juan Quiroz knocked off UMSL's Andreas Hammar six-one, six-two, at number two singles, to complete the five-zero Screamin' Eagle victory.

The Triton men finished the season with a nine-ten record, while the women were eight-eleven. Three of the Triton men's

“USI's Joseph Boesing made that hole even deeper when he defeated UMSL's Tim Bryant six-one, six-one, at number three singles.”

West Division and took on East Division's number two Southern Indiana at the Beechmont Racquet Club, for the right to advance to the semifinals. Unfortunately, the men's battle began just as the women's event did with UMSL losing all three doubles matches against the Screamin' Eagles, putting the Tritons in a near-impossible hole of needing to win at least five of

and two of the women's players completed their college careers this weekend.

For the men's team, Bryant, Daniel Anthony, and Alex Cherman are all graduating this spring, while Annie Gonzalez and Aya Gombo will finish school in May as well.

Tritons baseball eliminated from playoff contest after past weekend

CEDRIC WILLIAMS

Sports Editor

The University of Missouri-St. Louis baseball team came into this weekend ready to make its final stand, needing a big weekend in its four games against Great Lakes Valley Conference West Division rival Drury University if it was going to have any chance at making the playoffs this year.

But things just did not work out for the Tritons, as they lost all four games against the Panthers and were eliminated from playoff contention in the process.

UMSL came into last weekend's action with a 9-13 GLVC record, but could not climb all the way to third place in the division unless it had been able to win at least three of the four against Drury.

Instead, the Panthers were able to solidify their hold on third place and move closer to second place with their four straight wins over the Tritons.

The weekend series began with a doubleheader on Friday in Springfield, Mo., which Drury won six-one and four-three.

In the first game, junior Drew Boyer (one-five) took the loss for the Tritons. He tossed seven good innings and only allowed

seven hits. But two of those Drury base knocks were drove in five of the six runs, thanks to deep smash home runs off the bat of Panther catcher R. J. Knese.

Senior centerfielder Kenny Bechaud drove in the lone UMSL run with a hit in the third inning.

In game two on Friday, UMSL rallied from a three-zero deficit, thanks to a three-run homer by Bechaud that tied the score heading into the bottom of the seventh.

But Drury's Knese broke out his big bat again and drove his third homer of the day deep over the left-field fence for a walk-off dinger that gave the Panthers a Friday sweep.

On Saturday, the entire Drury team broke out its big bats against UMSL starter Jeremy Butler.

The Panthers pounded Triton pitching for an easy 14-1 win against UMSL pitchers Jeremy Butler, Kurt Driemeyer and Zach Sturdefant.

The series finale did not prove much better for UMSL, which lost its fifth straight by the score of 11-5.

Junior Tomas Duffek (one-three) took the loss in that contest, after allowing seven runs total in 6 2/3 innings work.

The lone bright spot for UMSL this weekend was Bechaud launching two home runs late in the final contest to raise his team-leading season total to six. Bechaud also leads the Tritons

with 27 RBIs, two ahead of teammate Spencer Ammons.

UMSL, which is now 14-25 on the season and 9-17 in the GLVC, will close its season with a four-game series in Rolla, Mo. against Missouri S&T, which is in first place in the GLVC West Division and will be looking to clinch itself a division title when the Tritons come to town on Saturday and Sunday.

And although UMSL has concluded its home season, there will still be other baseball played at the UMSL Baseball Field in 2011.

The GLVC will once again use UMSL's home facility as the second site for the league championship tournament which is coming to St. Louis next weekend.

The primary home for the 2011 GLVC Baseball Championships will be GCS Ballpark (home of the Gateway Grizzlies) in Sauget, Illinois, where the tournament's semifinal and championship games will be held. But both facilities will be used for the first and second round games which, weather permitting, will include three first round games on Thursday, May 12, and two second round games on Friday, May 13.

The semifinals are scheduled for Saturday, May 14, with Championship Sunday slated for May 15. More details will follow the conclusion of the Championship matches, hopefully curtailing more victories for UMSL over its rivals.

SOFTBALL, from page 10

“We’re just having fun, I guess, just seeing what happens.” As fun as Sunday was, almost nothing could compare to the drama and excitement that went down at the UMSL Softball Field on Saturday. The Tritons trailed big in both games against Drury, yet somehow managed to stage a pair of miracle comebacks to nab both wins against the Panthers. In game one, UMSL trailed seven-three, before Davis made it seven-four with a homer of her own.

Drury held that lead heading into the bottom of the seventh, but that only set up one of the most dramatic finishes for UMSL this season. The Tritons pieced together three hits, some aggressive base-running and a Drury error for three runs to tie the score, setting the stage for junior Monica Strube, who delivered a bases-loaded single that scored pinch-runner Amanda Seib and gave UMSL an eight-seven win.

The high from that comeback, walk-off win only lasted a short while as Drury took advantage of several UMSL fielding errors early in game two, to give itself a five-zero lead. Somehow UMSL scratched out a run in the fifth, but still trailed five-one heading into the seventh. But that is when UMSL really got its rally caps going again and put together a rally that somehow topped the comeback from earlier in the day. This time, Davis got the rally going with a leadoff walk. She then advanced to second on a hit by Strube, then scored on an RBI hit by junior third baseman Shannon Beatty.

Driskell followed with a run-scoring hit of her own that drove in Strube and made the score five-three. After a strikeout, Ellis walked, loading the bases and giving the Tritons an excellent chance to tie the score. That brought senior rightfielder Karey Kruse to the plate, but she did not seem one bit interested in just trying to tie the score. The lefty slugger from St. Dominic High, who finished third in the GLVC with a .404 batting average, jumped all over the second pitch she saw, and drove it way over the centerfield wall for a walk-off grand slam that gave the Tritons a seven-five win.

“It felt really good to come through for our team,” Kruse said. “Everyone wants to be able to do that for their team. And to be able to do that on my last weekend playing here, it was really nice.”

Winning the conference title means UMSL (29-15 overall, 20-5 in league play) has also earned the number one seed in next weekend’s GLVC Softball Championship Tournament in Peoria.

The Tritons will face Rockhurst, which earned the eighth seed, in the tourney’s first round at noon on Friday. Should UMSL advance to the championship game, it would be played on Sunday, at either noon or 2 p.m.



The Current would like to say

CONGRATULATIONS!

to Features Editor Jen O’Hara and her fiancé, Wesley Johnson.

Jen is graduating in August after working at the Current for two years. We’d like to thank her for her hard work and dedication, and wish her the best not only in married life, but in everything she does.

Make out with
lots of cash.

And win
an iPad 2!



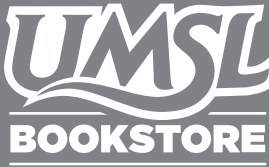
TEXTBOOK
BUYBACK

WE WILL BUY ALL TEXTBOOKS
— NOTHING LESS THAN \$5!*

Get the most cash for your books — GUARANTEED!

DATES : TIMES : LOCATIONS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Apr 27 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	Apr 28 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	Apr 29 7:30am-5pm UMSL Bookstore	Apr 30
May 1	May 2 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	May 3 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	May 4 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	May 5 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	May 6 7:30am-5pm UMSL Bookstore	May 7
May 8	May 9 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	May 10 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	May 11 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	May 12 7:30am-7pm UMSL Bookstore	May 13 7:30am-4pm UMSL Bookstore	May 14



209 Millennium Student Center
umslbookstore.com | (314) 516-5763
facebook.com/umslbookstore
twitter.com/UMSLBooks
Where all profits go back to UMSL.

*\$5 minimum applies to textbooks only. Limit 10 \$5 books per UMSL student. \$5 book promotion subject to change or cancellation without notice at the discretion of UMSL Bookstore when buyback inventory goals are met. Valid UMSL student ID required. Excluded books: Damaged, Sticker Books, Picture Books, CD Only Packets, Workbooks, Student Solution Manuals or Study Guides, All Novels, Library Books, Non-University of Missouri Custom, Instructor’s Annotated or Review Copies and International Editions. Other exceptions may apply; please see store for details.

Opinions

OUR OPINION

Truth travesty: Breitbart's selective video editing sham

Andrew Breitbart and his Big Government blog have a lot to answer for.

They have committed themselves to bringing down good people to further their bigoted right-wing agenda.

Through the use of carefully and heavily edited undercover videos, Breitbart and his goons have underhandedly attacked good American citizens for no reason other than they oppose right-wing viewpoints.

Shirley Sherrod (United States Department of Agriculture), Senator Mary Landrieu (D-LA), Abbie Bourdeau (CNN Correspondent), Vivian Schiller (National Public Radio): all of these women have been targeted by Breitbart and his undercover videographer James O'Keefe.

Oh, and their video editing chanel house.

Now it seems that Breitbart has targeted the University of Missouri-St. Louis and one of our own. What, was Breitbart not satisfied with trying to ruin the careers of those hardworking women?

Don Giljum, an official of the International Union of Operating Engineers at Ameren UE here in St. Louis and Judy Ancel, Director of Labor Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City were teaching two joint cross-campus courses called "Introduction to Labor Studies" and "Labor Politics and Society".

Some anonymous ne'er-do-well brought a hidden camera into these classes, shot video, and then turned the footage over to Breitbart's Big Government to edit.

According to media watchdog website Media Matters, Breitbart made his intentions known a week ago to "go after the teachers and the union organizers".

Sure enough, one week later, out come these choppy, sloppily-edited videos purportedly showing two radical Communists/Unionists advocating the use of violent rebellion and animal cruelty, among other things. How... convenient.

Let's examine the full video, and see an example of Breitbart's editing technique (the part in bold is what was purposely left out of the video): In a quote from one of the videos, Giljum appears to be advocating the use of violence: "You know, and I can't really honestly say that I've never wished, or have never been in a position where I have haven't wished real harm on somebody or inflicted any pain and suffering on some people...who didn't ask for it, but, you know, it certainly has its place. **It certainly makes you feel a hell of a lot better sometimes, but beyond that I'm not sure as a tactic today, the type of violence or reaction to the violence we had back then would be called for here, and I think**

it would do more harm than good."

This kind of brazen portrayal of edited videos as the confirmed truth is a travesty of modern journalism, and should not be tolerated. Breitbart deserves to be outed as the conservative rabble-rouser that he is.

Sadly, Giljum has already resigned; he is smart enough to know that despite the fact that he did nothing wrong, the persistent persecution of the right-wing blogosphere would follow him and dog his every move if he did not.

Giljum was even thrown under the bus by UMSL; in a statement, UMSL told Giljum he will not be rehired next semester. Luckily, the University of Missouri-Kansas City seems to (so far) have more faith in Ancel; their statement, from a provost at UMKC, says "the videos distort what was being taught in class lectures". Good on them. Ancel and Giljum did nothing wrong, and should not be punished in any way.

Conservatives like Breitbart need to realize that truth will out, and that their lies and deceptions only hurt innocent people.

Unsigned editorials reflect the majority viewpoint of The Current's Editorial Board: Andrew Seal, Ryan Krull, Jen O'Hara, William Kyle, Cedric Williams, Jennifer Meahan, Zachary Kraft and Matthew Poposky.

SEAL OF APPROVAL

Boy (Finally) Meets World

When I was younger, my favorite television show was "Boy Meets World". Something about the weekly antics of Cory and Eric Matthews, Shawn Hunter, Topanga Lawrence and Mr. Feeny always brought me back again and again.

It might have been the well written dialog, the snappy jokes, the constant humor and absurdity of it all.

Or it might have been the sympathy I felt with the characters. I wasn't watching the lives of Cory and Shawn, I was there with them.

But what drew me the most to it was that it showed me a vision of what it was like to grow up.

As I got older, so did the characters. Cory and his crew were always a few years ahead of me, so by watching them I knew what to expect from high school and then college.

Aside from the fact that I never became trapped in my high school with Jennifer Love Hewitt on Halloween or dressed up like a female foreign exchange student to avoid bullies, the trials and tribulations of the "Boy Meets World" characters taught me a great deal.

Besides that, they gave me something to look forward to. I never had a soulmate from a young age like Cory had, but I knew that one day I would find her. And thanks to Shawn, I knew what to do (and what not to do).

College was going to be this brand new experience, and I couldn't wait to find my Topanga and finally be like Cory.

I graduated from high

school back in 2005, and went right from there to Truman State University.

Thing is, Truman didn't feel like college to me. It felt like being at home but with a roommate. I slipped into an easy routine of slacking off, playing video games, and working on The Index, Truman's student newspaper.

I pulled a Shawn back then: I made some bad life choices, and paid for them. I left Truman after four semesters and returned home to Saint Peters to get my life in order.

It's safe to say I grew up a lot after I left Truman; I wasn't ready to be out on my own quite yet. Despite that, I don't regret my time there for a minute. I made friends and learned so much there. My life is the better for my time spent there.

Getting my life back in order required four semesters at the St. Charles Community College. I made a lot of friends, started the student newspaper there (The SCCougar), and left with a greater understanding of what I wanted to do and be in my life.

After SCC, I transfered here to the University of Missouri-St. Louis. My very first day here, right after taking the welcome tour, I asked where the Current office was.

I promptly filled out an application and within days was working as a staff writer. A few months later, and I was hired on as Opinions Editor.

Opinions Editor I would remain under two Editor-in-Chiefs until earlier this year, when I stepped in as the new Editor-in-Chief.



Andrew Seal

My tenure as EiC has been brief but bittersweet. Hopefully, I have managed to leave a positive and lasting impression on my peers as well as the paper itself.

You see, I have been working with some of the best student journalists I have ever had the extreme pleasure to meet (no offense to the folks I worked with at The Index and The SCCougar. You are all my favorites, too!).

Sure, I have taken a little longer to graduate than some. But the experiences I have had have been worth it. I have been to New York City and Austin for journalism conventions. I have met people I know will be friends for life.

My own personal journey to maturity is not complete; at this point, I'm not sure it ever will, and I'm not sure that's a bad thing.

I have learned that in my life, I'm always exactly where I am meant to be. I have also learned that growing up isn't anything like it is on "Boy Meets World".

It's better.

Andrew Seal is Editor-in-Chief for The Current, and if all goes well, will be graduating in August.

What do you think?
www.thecurrent-online.com.

SCIENCE MATTERS

Warnings, action, safe rooms and daylight all matter with tornadoes

The Good Friday tornado that ripped through nearby neighborhoods and the airport had one bright spot: no one was killed and injuries were limited.

One has to credit broadcast media for warnings, but one has to also credit people's good sense for listening and taking shelter.

News reports indicated how little time one sometimes has to take shelter. One man told of how his family had just started down the basement steps when the twister hit.

According to the National Weather Service, a long-track tornado touched down along Creve Coeur Lake just before 8 p.m. and tracked nearly due east.

With winds up to 200 miles per hour, it reached a maximum intensity of EF4 as it hit the community of Bridgeton. EF4 is the second-highest level on the Enhanced Fujita Scale, which rates a tornado's intensity based largely on damage inflicted on human-built structures.

The path was 22 miles long with a maximum width nearly a half-mile.

It was the strongest tornado to hit the St. Louis area in 44 years.

Over 2,200 homes were damaged, at least 100 destroyed, along with damage to businesses and trees.

As part of the Midwestern "tornado alley," people here are accustomed to taking tornado warnings seriously. However, tornadoes are a rarer thing in the Deep South which was recently hit with a rampant string of tornadoes before and after our own.

Still, the fact that tornadoes had wreaked devastation in the South just the week before may have made people here more inclined to listen to weather reports and take shelter.

A 2010 study found tornado warnings too often go unheeded. A Michigan State University study in October 2010 indicated people often ignore tornado warnings and whether or not people responded was linked to their personal experiences with severe weather events.

Researchers noted only 63 percent of people knew that a tornado warning is the most severe weather statement the National Weather Service issues.

Of course, one must have somewhere to take shelter. Basements, common here, are less so in the South, but small interior rooms like a bathroom or closet can serve as a "safe room" from tornadoes.

A pilot program to encourage homeowners to add a safe room, "Resilient Home Program," brings together academics and government agencies including the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in that effort.

The program uses recently revised FEMA guidelines on designs for safe rooms, below or above ground. Another thing that worked in our favor was timing.

The warnings occurred in early evening, when families are more likely to be watching TV.

A 2008 Northern Illinois University study indicated



Cate Marquis

that night-time tornadoes and off-season ones are more deadly, partially because people are asleep, but also because tornadoes are harder to detect at night.

Tornadoes between midnight and sunrise are more common in the South.

April 2011 is on track to setting a record for tornadoes. There have been more than 900 sightings and hundreds of tornado-related deaths by April 29.

Not all sightings will be confirmed but tornadoes may top the record 267 confirmed for April 1974.

May and June are usually the peak months for tornadoes. Yet more tornadoes in April may indicate an earlier peak rather than higher totals of tornadoes.

This is the case most years because tornadoes only form under certain conditions and their occurrence tends to shift north and east with the jet stream through spring.

However, 2008 was an exception to this rule. Climate change may play a role, but teasing out the effect of climate on local weather requires time to examine statistical trends.

Cate Marquis is a Science Columnist for The Current.

POP CULTURE WITH POPOSKY

Fresh thoughts radically improve films and books

Predictability in popular media is truly getting quite ridiculous. Be it a book, movie, theatrical production, videogame or otherwise, stories, characters and overarching themes are simply becoming far too obvious. Rarely is a character seen who does not fall into a very specific archetype. Rarely is a story told which does not mirror the plot of another. Rarely are themes in any way original and they often speak to values which are lost upon modern society.

Archetypes are exceptionally annoying. According to the bane of all teachers' existence: Wikipedia, an archetype is "a universally understood symbol or pattern of behavior, a prototype upon which others are copied, patterned, or emulated."

Think of just about any story involving a hero. This character, whether male, female, beast or human, shines in comparison to their peers. Whether they are entirely good or not is of little consequence: there is something about this character which draws them to do the right thing at all times despite the personal consequences. Here is a character who will give their own life for absolutely any cause, no matter how great or small. Sure, they may have character flaws, but these are almost always overcome through some adversity by the tale's completion.

There is also storyline to be examined. For this in-

stance, examine the story of "Scream 4," a recent film in theatres around the world. Following in true "Scream" franchise typicality, a murderer is wandering around in a full-body black robe, with a mask much resembling a ghost's face stuck in an eternal scream.

This is all fine and well. The "Scream" franchise is founded upon this storyline, and no film in the series would be complete without this factor. However, it is the fact that the story follows the exact same methodology of its predecessors that is horrible.

"Scream" is not the only series to use this plot line. A couple of unimportant characters, usually helpless, "gorgeous" females, are killed off in the first scene or two. They will not be mentioned by name for the remainder of the film. Following this, the killings become increasingly brash, as the originally highly intelligent murderer apparently forgets that they are wanted by the police.

A party scene is usually involved where either one person is killed or several are killed. It is rare for slashers to diverge from this essential formula.

In the end, the killer is always caught or defeated in some way, despite the fact that they have managed to kill several people without difficulty prior to this.

To be fair, popular media is attempting to make small



Matthew B. Poposky

modifications to stories such as these: the use of false leads, wherein a character is intentionally made to seem to have motive as a killer, has become popular. The problem is that some outlets are now starting to overdo it, and "Scream 4" fits this bill perfectly. By the end of the film, most viewers will believe that any of five or six people could be the killer, as the producers did everything possible to create a plethora of suspects.

Themes are just as overused. The promiscuous couple always must die: sex is bad. The guy who runs a greedy business has to go: do not take advantage of your fellow man.

The pure, beautiful young couple somehow survives, despite being the least prepared for catastrophe: purity leads to a longer life. These themes are excellent! But they are predictable.

Popular media really needs some new ideas, and fast. If not, "Idiocracy" may be right about "Ass" in the year 2505.

Matthew Poposky is Opinions Editor for The Current.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
Let us know at www.thecurrent-online.com

Point/Counterpoint



Should September 11th first-responders be screened?

Republican representative schizophrenia over the top

Last year, legislation was finally passed to provide federal health monitoring and financial aid to the members of emergency services that were on duty for rescue and cleanup efforts on and after 9/11.

It is bad enough that it took nine years for this legislation to be passed, but to add insult to injury, these first responders are being informed that under the provisions of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Law, they will be required to submit to terrorist screenings by the Federal Bureau of Investigation before they will be entitled to receive any aid or compensation from the federal government.

Should an individual fail to submit to this screening, they will be barred from seeking or receiving treatment for any of the life-threatening ailments that have emerged in 9/11 survivors and first responders. Predictably, 9/11 responders and advocacy groups are in an uproar and with good reason.

It is an utterly absurd thought, that a hypothetical terrorist posing as a bystander would stay in the country another nine years

just so they could get health benefits.

It is even more absurd to believe that the members of the police and fire departments that responded in New York City's greatest hour of need might be terrorists or harbor terrorist sympathies themselves. Why would they give so much of themselves and put their lives at risk to help the people and the city that Al Qaeda had worked so hard to strike a blow against?

There is no logical or reasonable answer to that question, but there is an answer to the question of why this particular bit of legislation exists in the first place: partisanship. Once again, right-wing politicians are playing partisan games with people's lives. This bill took nine years to pass thanks to constant Republican efforts to kill it.

When it became obvious they could not kill the bill, they tried to weigh it down with ideologically-driven riders concerning unrelated topics such as abortion, tax cuts and immigration.

When that failed, Representative Cliff Stearns, a Florida Republican, finally proposed the terrorist screening amendment to the bill,

and Democrats chose to accept it in the hopes of avoiding yet another Republican filibuster.

While the right plays their partisan games, people are inevitably suffering. These are not minor illnesses affecting the one-time responders and observers; since 9/11, nearly one thousand people have died of illnesses caused by the various types of deadly contaminants released in the destruction of the Twin Towers.

It has taken nine long, difficult years to get these people the help they need, help they might never have gotten at all if certain politicians had managed to get their way. Now, these same politicians are delaying funding even further so they can play tough-on-terrorism. Like little boys with magnifying glasses assaulting the saviors of 9/11.

This is simply unconscionable. After what they went through on 9/11 and after what they have continued to endure in the years following 9/11, what more do these people have to prove?

Why should they have to prove this to individuals like Rep. Representative Stearns?

Terrorism is no joke: first responders have patriotic duties to America as well

September 11 of 2001 marked the beginning of the greatest war on terrorism this country has ever seen.

The twin towers were absolutely demolished. The Pentagon in Washington D.C. was immensely damaged. Thousands of families were torn apart due to deaths or injuries caused by these two attacks alone.

Since then, the United States has done everything in its power to help prevent such an occurrence from ever striking at the hearts of American families again.

From foreign occupations and anti-terrorist operations to programs at home like the Patriot Act, the U.S. has truly been making an all-in stand against terrorism, both at home and abroad.

A recent proposition is that 9/11 responders be forced to go through terrorist-related screenings in order to receive medical benefits regarding injuries or illnesses which may have been caused by their involvement with responses to the twin tower or Pentagon attacks.

There are plenty of bleed-

ing hearts on the left who refuse to accept such an act, but on the right, the act is heavily supported.

The reasoning is simple: the U.S. has suffered heavy losses due to the terrorist attacks on 9/11. The deaths and familial destruction did not end with the attacks.

Occupations of other countries in attempts to bring the criminals responsible for these heinous assaults on the United States have resulted in the deaths of far too many American soldiers. Many of these soldiers were young, fresh recruits, not even old enough to have finished college yet.

Yet the leftists of this country wish to see benefits handed out to people who may very well have been involved in the very attacks of which Americans are now so frightened of.

It makes no sense to not screen those who would wish to receive benefits from this country. In all honesty, full checks of any citizen who has ever acted out against the government or has relatives who may have done so, really

ought to be enacted immediately.

The U.S. has grown as large, prosperous and powerful as it has for one reason: cooperation and movement towards a common goal.

The separation of ideology and lack of cooperation in this country has been increasingly rampant since the terrorist attacks of 9/11, and people continue to wonder why terrorist screenings and anti-terrorist operations overseas have not dwindled yet.

Put frankly, this country needs to do everything in its power to prevent such actions from ever occurring again. If that means a few emergency response personnel have to be tested for terrorist associations prior to receiving free medical care from this government, then so be it.

If the screenings happen to uncover unpleasant terrorist associations, then the screenings have done their job: they have helped prevent a potential terrorist attack from ever taking place.

The innocent have absolutely nothing to fear, so why complain so?

Comics & Puzzles

Simply Beagle by Karlee Sellars



WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Let us know at
www.thecurrent-online.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2011 STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD RECIPIENTS

2009-2010 Advisor of the Year

Dr. Kristy Tucciarone

Res. Life Desk Assistant of the Year

Carolyn Reese

Res. Life Program of the Year

Diverse Disability:

Daniel Rosner, Olivia Monroe, Ronald Richardson

Resident Advisor of the Year

Ronald Richardson

Resident of the Year

Denzel Morris

SGA Student Choice Award

Information Technology Services

Triton Athletic Leadership Award

Katie Rynkiewich

Austin Schuler

Student Life Award

Norm Dalton

Best Cultural Awareness Program

Black Leadership Organizing Council:

MLK vs. Malcolm X: Which Model do we follow?

Rising Leader of the Year

Marissa Steimel

Best Sustained Program

Golden Key International Honour Society:

Undergraduate Research Symposium

Greek Leader of the Year

Kendall Meloy

Best Campus Community Building Program

University Program Board:

UMSL's NOH8 Campaign

Student Advocate Award

Laruen Masterson-Rodriguez

Daniel Rosner

Best Overall Program

University Program Board:

An Evening w/ Maya Angelou

Faculty Advisor of the Year

Dan Gerth

Organization of the Year

University Program Board

Student Leader of the Year

Gabrielle Macaluso